Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, OSCI, AS, US

SUBJ: RENEWAL OF UNITED STATES-AUSTRALIA AGREEMENT FOR SCIENTIFIC

AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

REF: (A) STATE 158226 (B) STATE 33584, (C) CANBERRA 681

1. BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON FEBRUARY 10 EMBASSY, ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL B, DULY INFORMED DFA THAT USG WISHED TO RENEW SUBJECT AGREEMENT FOR FURTHER FIVE YEARS, THAT US HAD NO CHANGES TO PROPOSE TO TEXT, BUT THAT IT WILLING CONSIDER ANY CHANGES GOA MIGHT WISH TO PROPOSE.

2. ON JUNE 16, PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL A, DR. VENNING OF STAFF OF DFA'S ADVISOR ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT TOLD SCIENCE LIAISON OFFICER (SLO) THAT DFA HAD NOW RECEIVED FULL APPROVAL FOR UNCHANGED AGREEMENT FROM DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND THAT IT BEING VETTED BY FDA LEGAL BRANCH AND THAT HE THOUGHT HE WOULD BE ABLE MAKE FORMAL REPLY OUR FEBRUARY NOTE WITHIN A FEW DAYS.

3. ON JUNE 23, VENNING INFORMED SLO THAT CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO POSSIBILITY OF HAVING PRIMIN FRASER SIGN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF GOA INSTEAD OF MINISTER FOR SCIENCE, AND THAT SHOULD THIS BE CASE WORDING OF AGREEMENT MIGHT HAVE TO BE ALTERED SLIGHTLY, BUT NOT RPT NOT IN ANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUBSTANTIVE MANNER.

4. ORGINAL AGREEMENT SIGNED IN CANBERRA ON OCTOBER 16, 1968 FOR GOA BY MALCOLM FRASER IN HIS THEN CAPACITY OF MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND EDUCATION AND FOR THE USG BY AMBASSADOR WILLIAM H. CROOK AND DONALD F. HORNING - WHO PRESUMABLY THEN DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

(TIAS 6589; 19 UST 6714)

5. AGREEMENT RENEWED ON JULY 30, 1973 THROUGH AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN THEN PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS E. GOUGH WHITLAM AND THEN SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS (TIAS 7682; 24 UST 1758).

6. OUR CONTACTS IN DFA HAVE TOLD US THAT IT THINKING AT WORKING LEVELS IN DEPARTMENT OF PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET (PM&C) THAT IT WOULD BE GOOD IDEA HAVE PRIME MINISTER SIGN AGREEMENT/EXCHANGE OF LETTERS IN VIEW OF EMPHASIS PLACED ON SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES DURING RECENT VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE, BECAUSE 1973 RENEWAL DONE AT PRIME MINISTER LEVEL (ALTHOUGH WHITLAM WAS ISGNING AS FM) AND IN VIEW OF FACT THAT FRASER SIGNED ORIGINAL AGREEMENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PROPOSAL HAS NT PRT NOT YET BEEN PUT TO PM. WHILE THEY WILL BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO APPEAR TO BE TRYING TO BLOCK SIGNATURE BY PM, WORKING LEVELS IN DFA ARE INCLINED TO TAKE POSITION THAT IT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE FOR FOREIGN MINISTER OR MINISTER FOR SCIENCE TO SIGN FOR GOA. OUR DFA CONTACTS HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY WOULD MOST WELCOME HEARING DEPARTMENT'S VIEW ON MATTER.

7. DOES DEPT ENVISAGE RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT BY EXCHANGE OF LETTERS AS WAS CASE IN 1973? IF SO WHERE SHOULD EXCHANGE TAKE PLACE; IN CANBERRA BETWEEN PM FRASER OR MINISTER OF SCIENCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WEBSTER AND AMBASSADOR ALSTON, OR IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN SECRETARY VANCE AND PERSON TO BE DESIGNATED BY GOA? SQUIRE

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